Wide gap between the platforms and compartments at Guntur Railway Station

333. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between the railway platforms and the railway compartments at Guntur station thereby causing inconvenience in boarding the trains; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are being taken to rectify the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) As the platform line at Guntur is on a curve, an additional gap between the face of the platform and the compartments has to be provided. As the additional gap is only 13 cm, not much inconvenience is caused to the passengers.

Railway accidents on the South Central Zone of the Railways

334. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents that took place on the South Central Zone of the Railways during the last one year;

(b) what was the number of casualties in these accidents;

(c) what were the findings of the enquiry committees on these accidents;

(d) what preventive steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) what are the details therof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) There were 64 train accidents on South Central Railway during 1991-92. 24 persons lost their lives and 208 sustained injury. The accidents took place mainly due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage.

(d) to (e) Some of the important steps taken to reduce the accidents are :—

(i) induction of technical devices to aid the human element.

(i) monitoring the performance of staff of critical safety categories, such as, drivers, guards, station masters, etc.

(iii) intensive training, including psychological checks of staff in operational categories.

(iv) intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations.

(v) surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains.

(vi) provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

National Highways in Dhanbad District of Bihar

335. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names and length of the National Highways passing through Dhanbad District of Bihar;

(b) the present conditions of these National Highways;

(c) the length of each National Highways requiring immediate repairs; and

(d) the steps taken so far in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) National Highway Nos. 2, 23 and 32 pass through Dhanbad District of Bihar, with a length of 71 km, 17 km and 71 km respectively. These National Highways are being kept generally in traffic worthy condition, within the limitations of available funds;